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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJE-T: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. FRANCE: GISCARD TAKES A STEP TOWARD THE LIBERAL
SOCIETY

IN THE VIEW OF EMBASSY PARIS, BY THREATENING TO RESIGN
UNLESS GIVEN INCREASED CONTROL OVER POLICYMAKING CHIRAC
BACKED GISCARD INTO A CORNER AND FORECLOSED ANY CHANCE
OF RESOLVING THEIR PROBLEMS WITHOUT THE PRIME MINISTER'S
DEPARTURE. IN NAMING BARRE TO REPLACE CHIRAC, GISCARD:

--TOOK ANOTHER STEP TOWARD HIS LONG-DECLARED AIM OF
PRESIDENTIALIZING THE REGIME AND TOWARD HIS "LIBERAL
ADVANCED SOCIETY;" AND

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--LEFT THE GAULLISTS LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO SUPPORT HIM AND REMAIN IN THE GOVERNMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 24923, 8/26.)

2. JAPAN: LIBERAL LEADER BAD MOUTHS MIKI

IN A CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE SHOESMITH AUGUST 26, LIBERAL PARTY LEADER NADAO, THE KEY FIGURE IN THE LDP EFFORT TO

MEDIATE AMONG MIKI, FUKUDA AND OHIRA, WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT MIKI'S WILLINGNESS TO STEP DOWN GRACEFULLY. NADAO:

--SAID AN EARLY SETTLEMENT OF PARTY DIFFERENCES IS VITAL TO THE PASSAGE OF URGENTLY NEEDED FINANCIAL LEGISLATION;

--REGARDED AS PREMATURE SUGGESTIONS THAT A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT BE FORMED; AND

--CONCLUDED THAT MEDIATION IS AN EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT AND PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE TASK.

EMBASSY COMMENT: NADAO'S PESSIMISM TENDS TO CONFIRM REPORTS BY PARTY LEADERSK, INCLUDING FUKUDA, THAT THE PRESENT STANDOFF MAY NOT BE RESOLVED UNTIL EARLY SEPTEMBER. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 12897, 8/26.)

3. INDIA-BANGLADESH: PARTING THE GANGES MAY TAKE A MIRACLE

DEPUTY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR KHAN ASKED AMBASSADOR BOSTER FOR US SUPPORT FOR BANGLADESH'S ATTEMPT TO PLACE THE EQUITABLE SHARING OF THE GANGES RIVER WATERS ON THE UN SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA. KHAN SAID BANGLADESH FEELS COMPELLED TO TAKE THE ISSUE BEFORE THE UN BECAUSE:

--THE DRY SEASON BEGINS IN TWO MONTHS.

--INDIA HAS NOT RESPONDED TO BANGLADESH'S PROPOSALS FOR DAM AND RESERVOIR CONSTRUCTION AND INTERIM SHARING OF WATER ON A MONTHLY BASIS. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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ING OF WATER ON A MONTHLY BASIS.

IN NEW DELHI, THE GOI CHARGED THAT BANGLADESH WAS INTERRUPTING THE PROCESS OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) DACCA 4414 AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) NEW DELHI 12549, 8/26.)

4. THAILAND: SENI ADDS A HAT

THE RESIGNATION OF DEFENSE MINISTER THAWIT SHOULD NOT AFFECT THE STABILITY OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. EMBASSY BANGKOK NOTES:

--THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COALITION VIEW THE RESIGNATION AS PURELY AN INTERNAL DEMOCRAT PARTY MATTER.

--THE MILITARY HAS NOT REACTED STRONGLY TO THE REMOVAL OF THAWIT, A WEAK MINISTER WHO HAD LITTLE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER MILITARY AFFAIRS.

--THERE IS SPECULATION THAT SENI WILL TURN THE DEFENSE PORTFOLIO OVER TO RETIRING ARMY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF BUNCHAI ON SEPTEMBER 30. (CONFIDENTIAL) BANGKOK 23990, 8/26.)

5. KENYA-SOUTH KOREA RELATIONS WARM UP

AFTER A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO SEOUL, KENYAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI SUPPORTED THE ROK'S CALL FOR RESUMPTION OF REUNIFICATION TALKS WITH NORTH KOREA. WAIYAKI ALSO DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT PARK INCREASED BILATERAL TRADE AND INVITED PARK TO VISIT KENYA. EMBASSY NAIROBI COMMENTS THE VISIT REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN KENYA'S FOREIGN POLICY AND WILL INEVITABLY FURTHER STRAIN KENYA'S CREDIBILITY WITHIN THE NON-ALIGNED WORLD. (CONFIDENTIAL) NAIROBI 9092, 8/26.)

6. PORTUGAL: GOVERNMENT HOPING TO OUTFOX COMMUNIST UNIONS

LABOR MINISTER CURTO TOLD AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI THAT 39
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"DEMOCRATIC" UNIONS MET AT COIMBRA AUGUST 23-24 TO COORDINATE THEIR POSITION ON THE PROPOSED NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS. CURTO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS PLEASED WITH THE MEETING BECAUSE:

--THE CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY THE UNIONS FOR THE CONGRESS, PARTICULARLY THAT IT BE OPEN TO THE PRESS, WILL PROBABLY BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE LARGER, COMMUNIST-DOMINATED INTERSINDICAL.

--THE FAILURE TO ACHIEVE A REUNIFIED LABOR MOVEMENT WILL EVENTUALLY FALL ON THE PCP RATHER THAN THE SOCIALISTS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE COIMBRA MEETING INDICATES THE FURTHER

SOLIDIFICATION OF A NUCLEUS OF NON-COMMUNIST UNIONS AND MAKES THE HOLDING OF A CONGRESS--AND REUNIFICATION OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT--MORE UNLIKELY. IF THE SOCIALISTS CAN AVOID BOTH THE CONGRESS AND THE BLAME FOR ITS COLLAPSE, THEY WILL HAVE PULLED OFF A MAJOR POLITICAL COUP. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LISBON 5831, 8/26.)

7. JAMAICA: OPPOSITION SEIZED BY OPTIMISM

LABOR PARTY LEADER SEAGA CONFIDENTLY PREDICTED TO AMBASSADOR GERARD AUGUST 24 THAT THE JLP WOULD WIN IN AN HONEST ELECTION. THE REASONS FOR HIS OPTIMISM INCLUDED:

--THE CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION;

--POPULAR BACKLASH AGAINST THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, THE GROWING CUBAN PRESENCE, AND GOJ ALLEGATIONS OF US "DESTABILIZATION;"

--INTERNAL DISSENSION IN THE RULING PNP.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: SEAGA SEEMS TO THINK MANLEY WILL CONDUCT REASONABLY HONEST ELECTIONS AND THAT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IS NOT AN INSUPERABLE OBSTACLE TO SUCCESS AT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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POLLS. THERE ARE CONTINUING INDICATIONS THE PNP IS LOSING GROUND, BUT I AM INCLINED TO BELIEVE MANLEY WILL GO TO ALMOST ANY LENGTH TO STOP SEAGA. (CONFIDENTIAL) KINGSTON 3556, 8/26.) KISSINGER

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